

**PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION**

# X-MITTER



***PUBLIC SERVICE  
THROUGH COMMUNICATION***



January 2015 Vol. 54 No. 1



The PWA year-end holiday party for 2014 was held at Hong Kong Chinese Buffet. A good time was had by all who attended. Seated from left to right: Ron (NY3J), Ken (K3FKW), Paul (N3TMX), Jim (KE3LA), Dave (N3TX), and standing in rear Adam (K3JCP)

*Image by ... Alex, KB3SYY*

## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

### CLUB INFORMATION

W3SK VHF Repeater Frequency: 146.790 MHz (-0.6, 131.8pl)

W3SK UHF Repeater Frequency: 448.225 MHz (-5.0, 131.8pl)

Echolink to W3SK Repeater System: Via W3SK-L (node# 502543)

PWA Webpage URL: <http://www.pennwireless.org>

PWA Email: [pennwirelessarc@gmail.com](mailto:pennwirelessarc@gmail.com)

Technet Email Reflector: [PWA-Technet@GoogleGroups.com](mailto:PWA-Technet@GoogleGroups.com)

**Penn Wireless Association** holds regular meetings consisting of general club business, current committee reports, group discussions, featured programs and a social period. This meeting is held at the Falls Township Building, 188 Lincoln Highway, Fairless Hills, PA on the third Monday of each month at 8:00 pm. Please contact the club vice president to add your business topic to the meeting agenda.

**ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

### PWA-Technet @ GoogleGroups.com Email Reflector User Account Policy

Penn Wireless Association, Inc. does not knowingly profit and/or disseminate user e-mail information to "spam" lists. The reflector provides us a means to just send e-mail to those who wish to receive notification when new X-Mitter issues and other relevant information (including, but not limited to, volunteer requests, ARES/RACES meetings, Field Day information, & Club events) are available for you to view on PWA web sites. We routinely send mass e-mail notification to all users, but we avoid issuing e-mail that is unrelated to Amateur Radio. However, we may send a mass e-mail to all users only if there is a problem with the web site, during web site maintenance, or during an emergency or scheduled public service event in order to notify those Amateur Radio operators who may wish to participate in RACES/ARES or PWA operations. If you have already registered as a user please review your account's distribution settings and if your e-mail is current so we may send you notification when new X-Mitter issues

### X-MITTER Newsletter Policy

**X-MITTER**, the official newsletter of Penn Wireless Association, is published monthly by and for Penn Wireless members and all Radio Amateurs. All material in **X-MITTER** may be reprinted, providing that a credit line is given, mentioning **X-MITTER**, Penn Wireless, Inc. and the byline contributor. The **X-MITTER** publication committee strives for accuracy, and we believe that all articles submitted are factual in their content. **X-MITTER** and PWA cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies of information and/or sources. All material submitted by PWA members shall be published, providing that such items meet generally accepted standards of quality and substance. Contributions by others shall be considered on a space-available basis. PWA membership is open to all persons with an interest in amateur radio, subject to approval of the executive board and current membership. A valid Amateur Radio license is required for full voting privileges. Mail for **X-MITTER** should be sent to: **Penn Wireless Association, P.O. Box 925, Levittown, PA 19058**. Contributions may, also, be E-mailed to [pwa-x-mitter@googlegroups.com](mailto:pwa-x-mitter@googlegroups.com). The closing date for submission of appropriate material to the pending issue (space permitting) is one week before the PWA General Meeting. We exchange **X-MITTER** with other area club newsletters. If your club is interested in exchanging with us, please e-Mail our group accordingly. Copyright © Penn Wireless Association, 2014. Version 17:29 3.7.2015

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## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

### FROM THE EDITOR

I realize that the holidays are over, but I came across this poem while going through some of my files, and I thought that some of you would enjoy reading it!

The embers glowed softly,  
and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room  
and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep,  
her head on my chest,  
My daughter beside me,  
angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell,  
a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard  
to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights  
in the tree I believe,  
Completed the magic  
that Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy,  
my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded  
by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment,  
or so it would seem,  
So I slumbered,  
perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud,  
and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eyes  
when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough,

I didn't quite know,  
Then the sure sound of footsteps  
outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble,  
I struggled to hear,  
And I crept to the door  
Just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold  
and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood  
his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled,  
some twenty years old,  
Perhaps a Marine,  
Huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark,  
he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me,  
and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?"  
I asked without fear,  
"Come in this moment,  
it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack;  
brush the snow from your sleeve,  
You should be at home  
on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment  
I saw his eyes shift,  
Away from the cold  
and the snow blown in drifts...  
To the window that danced  
with a warm fire's light

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## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

### FINANCIALLY THINKING

Howard Rubin, N3FEL

#### FIELD DAY

Field day is a defining moment in the club's annual calendar and so has become a budgeted expense. This year our Field Day budget is \$530 to include pavilion rental (\$190), park fee (\$25), food (\$250), generator fuel (\$35), first aid supplies (\$15) and promotion (\$15.) Other expenditures such as trailer rental (\$50) and First Aid recertification (\$35) are traditionally funded as an out-of-pocket cost and not charged to the club.

Funds raised at club meetings can offset these expenditures. Field Day is an event that should be supported by members who participate, however it is also a promotion of Penn Wireless in general and should be considered as seed money to introduce new members to the club and ham radio to the community. As such, a certain percentage of the Field Day expense should be funded by Club's treasury. I propose that percentage to be 33%, or \$175. In reality, if twenty members each contribute \$20 toward the event, the total collected from participants would be \$400. That would be enough to fund Field Day and include a surplus of \$45 for contingency. The \$5 contribution per member is a good idea, but members should plan on a total of four (4)

contribution of \$5 each. All proceeds are contributed to the Treasurer who maintains a Field Day memo account and reports the amount at monthly business meetings.

#### FUND RAISING

Meeting night programs should include ideas for fund raising. Paul brought us a packet of information on a buying group for 501C3 organizations. Members who purchase through the buying group fund an income stream to us if they access the buying group using our account no. That's just one idea we can discuss at a club meeting. It may not be an entire evening's topic, but we need to allocate some time before the group at every general meeting.

#### REPEATER INTERNET CONNECTION

We currently use a land-line telephone connection for our repeater as means to control the radio gear and to comply with FCC regulations. The cost of our telephone service is \$32. per month. This expenditure is reasonable and necessary to maintain our repeater service. The key here is reasonable, i.e. it is not too much of a financial burden and necessary in that we can not operate the repeater without it. The Internet connection instead of a land-line is not mandated by FCC regulations, but it does

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**Minutes Of December E-Board Meeting**



Date: 12/08/14  
Call to Order: 7:45 P.M.

**In Attendance:**

- Paul Ceglia (N3TMX) – President
- Tom Stafford (KE3QC) – Vice President
- Howard Rubin (N3FEL) – Treasurer
- Jim Petrosky (KE3LA) – Recording Secretary

**Guests:** Ben Johns (K3JQH)

**Old Business:**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Howard has developed a new process sheet for Treasurer’s activities and recommended other Board members do the same for their respective offices.

Ben (K3JQH) offered several suggestions on scheduled Treasurer activity dates.

**Repeater:**

Paul (N3TMX) reported on the Fusion system install at the repeater site. System fully functional and working well.

**Membership:**

Jim (KE3LA) presented examples of direct mail post cards for membership recruitment program to begin in January. Board approved samples and program. PWA welcomes the return member Mark Keefer (N3JNC). No V.E. session scheduled for December due to holiday party.

**Activities:**

**Holiday Party.** Jim (KE3LA) to handle purchase of door prize.

**New Business:**

New PWA PO box has been established. Cost- \$62.00/yr. Two board members (Howard, N3FEL & Tom, KE3QC) to have keys. Ben (K3JQC) listed various accounts that will have to be contacted for address change. Jim (KE3LA) requested confirmation on X-Mitter submission date deadlines. All submissions to be received N.L.T. 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

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of previous month for the following month's issue.

Ben (K3JQH) has agreed to continue as V.E. session coordinator.

Discussion regarding charging a nominal fee for V.E. sessions.

Welcoming packet for new members, VE candidates discussed.

Jim (KE3LA) to work on packet.

Mark Hinkel (WA3QVU) selected as Field Day chairman.

Discussion on vacant chairman positions including membership.

Paul (N3TMX) discussed revenue generation. He suggested setting up a non-profit Ebates account.

Ben (K3JQH) inquired about adding a digital line at the repeater site for repeater use.

Board agreed it is premature at this date.

Mark (WA3QVU) requested Tyler Park Pavilion be reserved for Field Day 2015

Discussion on attracting new members

**Meeting Adjourned at: 9:05 P.M.**

Submitted by: Jim (KE3LA) – Recording Secretary

*Continued from page 5*

enhance the services provided by the digital repeater modes. If there is an up-charge for an Internet connection, the decision to add new services should be a topic to be discussed by the PWA executive board and voted upon accordingly. A resolution to increase our monthly expenditure could be more easily made if the new services brought with it a near-term return on the investment. Would the new services attract new members and bringing in more membership dues? Simple math would indicate that an increase of \$20 per month would have to be offset by at least 1 new member per month! A dozen new members per year. That sort of growth is possible, but likely to require far more effort than a mere Internet connection to the repeater site.

The possibility of using an RF connection from a member's QTH in near proximity to our repeater site is encouraging. However the example of Echolink would not be a convincing argument for the purchase of a Fusion radio. Our experience with Echolink is that it works very well but used very infrequently. An RF link with Internet connectivity in the Fusion digital system may be an entirely different matter, and a very popular service in the community. Again, more analysis and discussion would be

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FROM THE EDITOR

*Continued from page 4*

Then he sighed and he said  
"It's really all right.

I'm out here by choice.  
I'm here every night."  
"It's my duty to stand  
at the front of the line,  
That separates you  
from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask  
or beg or implore me,  
I'm proud to stand here  
like my father's before me,  
My Gramps died at 'Pearl  
on a day in December,"  
Then he sighed,  
"That's a Christmas  
'Gram always remembers."

My dad stood his watch  
in the jungles of 'Nam',  
And now it is my turn  
and so, here I am.  
I've not seen my own son  
in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures;  
he's sure got her smile."

Then he bent  
and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red, white, and blue...

an American flag.  
"I can live through the cold  
and the being alone,  
Away from my family,  
my house and my home."

"I can stand at my post  
through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole  
with little to eat.  
I can carry the weight  
of killing another,  
Or lay down my life  
with my sister and brother."

"Who stand at the front  
against any and all,  
To ensure for all time  
that this flag will not fall."  
"So go back inside,"  
he said, "harbor no fright,  
Your family is waiting  
and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something  
I can do, at the least,  
Give you money," I asked,  
"or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little  
for all that you've done.  
For being away  
from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear  
that held no regret,  
"Just tell us you love us,  
and never forget.



## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

To fight for our rights back at home  
while we're gone,  
To stand your own watch,  
no matter how long."

"For when we come home,  
either standing or dead,  
To know you remember  
we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough,  
and with that we will trust,  
That we mattered to you  
as you mattered to us."

Poem By LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN  
30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment OIC,  
Logistics Cell One Al Taqqadum, Iraq

Here's wishing you and yours a  
**VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA JOTA

The word from Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Jamboree on the Air ([JOTA](#)) Organizer Jim Wilson, K5ND, is: "Start [planning](#) for JOTA 2015. It's never too early." JOTA 2015 won't take place until October (Friday through Sunday, October 16-18), but the Radio Scouting (K2BSA) website provides some [planning tips](#) to help get a leg up on the process. The annual JOTA offers an opportunity for Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides around the world to speak with each other via Amateur Radio, and its success relies on the cooperation of local radio amateurs and clubs.

Wilson's extra-early JOTA advisory appeared aimed at boosting JOTA involvement in the wake of a somewhat disappointing 2014 [report](#) showing a continued decline in participation. In 2013, JOTA participation was down by nearly 4700 over 2012, and it dropped a bit further in 2014, when 7208 Scouts and 5589 visitors took part in the annual on-the-air event.

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suggested for an expenditure of a Fusion UHF transceiver to be made as a dedicated communications channel. Other aspects concerning security and/or tampering over the Internet connection needs to be explored before exposing a member's home network and the repeaters Fusion equipment to random visitors.

Other ways to bring Internet to the repeater must be explored, experimentally implemented, and perfected. We are amateur radio operators, not just communications consumers.

"[W]e recognize that we need to do a better job promoting the event to Scout Council staff and volunteers," Wilson conceded last fall, after the 2014 report was posted. Wilson attributed part of the decline in JOTA participation to a failure of some stations to file after-event reports. "Our survey of those that did not file a report revealed that a few didn't run the event due to other issues," Wilson said in a JOTA e-newsletter last weekend. "One was dodging a hurricane. Others said that time got away from them, and they just didn't file it." According to the 2014 report, 354 stations registered to participate, but only 205 filed reports. Wilson recommended that JOTA teams designate someone to record the data and file the report after the event. He also steered JOTA planners to some [program suggestions](#) for JOTA 2015.

**PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION**

## January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				Straight Key Night  Happy New Year!		RTTY Roundup 1/3—1/4
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Technet 8PM  Full Moon						
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Technet 8PM	PWA E-Board Meeting 7:30PM			Arduino uP SIG Mtg 7:30p Falls Rm 205		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
Technet 8PM	VE Session & PWA General Mtg 8 PM Falls Conf Rm  MLK, Jr Day	New Moon				VHF 1/24 - 1/25 SPAR Winter FD 1/24—1/25
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
Technet 8PM						

**PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION**

## February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Technet 8PM						
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Technet 8PM	PWA E-Board Meeting 7:30PM					
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Technet 8PM	PWA General Meeting 7:30PM			Arduino uP SIG Mtg 7:30p Falls Rm 205		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

### VE Examination

#### Take the Exam...

Our ARRL/VEC VE Team is ready and willing to administer any license grade/upgrade or code element test. Confirm your intention to test with Ben Johns, VE Contact at 215-657-5994 not later than the Friday evening before the 3rd Monday of the month. Please advise us in advance of any special needs you may have in successfully completing the intended test. Our testing session begins promptly at 6:30 pm and remains active until all license grades desired are administered. We do not recommend, nor is it our practice, to administer repeat examinations of similar license grades to any candidate. However, progressive license grades may be attempted by any applicant at no additional charge. Please come prepared with the following items.

Confirmation of appointment letter, email, note, etc. Walk-ins are not guaranteed a test session.

Test fee of \$15 in cash or personal check payable to ARRL/VEC.

Either of the following ID methods:

- a. One legal photo ID (driver or non-driver license, passport, radiotelegraph license, or other legal photo ID)

OR

- b. Any two of the following IDs: Non Photo ID/Driver License, Social Security Card, Birth certificate, Minor's work permit, Utility bill, bank statement, business correspondence specifically naming the person, Post-marked envelope addressed to the person at his or her mailing address as it appear-

ing on the FCC Form 605

Any of the following ID numbers: Taxpayer ID (Social Security Number), IRS issued EIN (Employer Information Number), Alternate taxpayer ID Number (ATIN), FCC Issued Registration Number (FRN), FCC Issued Licensee ID Number

The **\*\*original\*\*** plus one copy of your FCC license or CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination). The original will be returned immediately to you.

If applicable, a Physician's Statement if necessary to validate your claim of difficulty at reading, writing or speaking when requesting special assistance.

A calculator is recommended and allowed if ALL internal memories are cleared and can be demonstrated free of information. A simple four-function calculator is suggested.

One or more black-lead pencils and eraser, and a ball point pen.



*Penn Wireless Association  
P.O. Box 925  
Levittown, PA 19058*



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

*Personal Information (please print):*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  active  retired

*License Information:*

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class:  Novice  Tech  General  Advanced  Extra

Date First Licensed \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Calls: \_\_\_\_\_

*Preferences:*

ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Other Clubs? \_\_\_\_\_

Bands/Modes Frequently Operated \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Power? \_\_\_\_\_ Portable/Mobile? \_\_\_\_\_

*Favorite Amateur Radio Activities: (note all that apply)*

- |   |                                       |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards         | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic      | <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting      | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Radio       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rag Chewing    | <input type="checkbox"/> MARS         | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day       | <input type="checkbox"/> QRP                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Projects       | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising    | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DX'ing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hunting  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service  | <input type="checkbox"/> QSL Card Collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Packet Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Rig Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> _____               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hamfest      | <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____               |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored By: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues: \$20. Paid \_\_\_\_\_

## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

### Executive Board ...

PRESIDENT <b>PAUL CEGLIA, N3TMX</b> 610-608-9584	cegtv1@aol.com
VICE PRESIDENT <b>TOM STAFFORD, KE3QC</b> 215-584-3428	ke3qc@ke3qc.com
RECORDING SECRETARY <b>JIM PETROSKY, KE3LA</b> 215-943-7654	ke3la@comcast.net
TREASURER <b>HOWARD RUBIN, N3FEL</b> 267-304-6949	n3fel@arrl.net
CORRESP. SECRETARY <b>ALEX GROSS, KB3SYY</b> 215-639-8306	kb3syy@yahoo.com



### ***Silver Service Award***

Penn Wireless Association sponsors the Silver Service Award to recognize amateurs who have performed outstanding service to their club, their community and Amateur Radio. Nominations are accepted throughout the year and a candidate is selected to be honored at our annual banquet. Nominations should be mailed to PWA Silver Service, P.O. Box 925, Levittown, PA 19058.



## PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Field Day is a time for amateur radio operators to show the world what grass roots communication is all about.



**JUNE 27-28, 2015**

Join PWA at our annual Field Day exercise. Sign up now for a station assignment. Station locations are to be awarded soon (see note.) Don't hesitate, as the best assignments and locations will no longer be available. Field Day committees are forming now. Plan to serve on one or more of the following and help Penn Wireless Association bring out the best exercise experience this side of Newington.

- |                                |                            |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| √ GOTA Station / Recruitment   | √ Safety / First Aid       | √ Field Day Ways and Means       |
| √ Antenna Planning / Setup     | √ CW, SSB, & Digital Modes | √ Power Generator / Distribution |
| √ Public Awareness / Relations | √ Education/Training       | √ Food Planning / Preparation    |

*Note: Station assignment and location options are initially offered to participating band captains of FD 2014. After that, assignments are offered to band captain applicants in descending order of highest license class on a first-come, first served basis. For additional details, contact your Field Day 2015 Chairman Mark Hinkel, WA3QVU [mrhinkel@verizon.net](mailto:mrhinkel@verizon.net)*



**X-MITTER  
P.O. BOX 925  
LEVITTOWN, PA 19058**

*If undeliverable as addressed,  
return requested*

